



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20160225-00115-ADV (Health Advisory)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, and Healthcare providers – Hinds, Rankin, and Madison Counties  
**DATE:** Thursday, February 25, 2016

**SUBJECT:** *Lead Prevention Recommendations for City of Jackson*

Dear Colleagues:

Elevated lead levels have recently been detected in a sample of homes served by the City of Jackson public water system. Lead can enter drinking water through corrosion of plumbing materials, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. This situation is expected to be temporary and lead levels in the water should drop back to normal following the resolution of pH stability issues in the City of Jackson water system.

In testing conducted January 2016, 10% of home first-morning water samples were above the federal action level of 15 ppb. 36% of homes samples had no detectable lead and the remainder had detectable lead with values ranging from 0.9 to 14.7 ppb. First-morning water samples have higher lead values as water sitting over night can accumulate lead from pipes and fixtures. Flushing the tap water for one to four minutes can markedly reduce lead concentrations in the water (<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm>).

Lead results for children  $\leq 6$  years of age are mandatorily reported to the Mississippi State Department of Health. An assessment of blood lead levels for children in Jackson and Hinds County has identified no increase in the proportion or severity of levels  $\geq 5$ mcg/dL from 2012 to 2015.

The Mississippi State Department of Health, following consultation with CDC and EPA, is making the following recommendations to the public and healthcare providers to minimize any potential adverse effects from lead exposures from the City of Jackson tap water.

**Screening Recommendations to Provider**

Until the water stability issues in the City of Jackson have been resolved, the Mississippi State Department of Health recommends the following for children on the City of Jackson water system:

- In addition to blood lead testing based on current risk based guidance, the Mississippi State Department of Health recommends routine blood lead testing for all children age 6 to 72 months of age as a component of normal well child assessments.

The Division of Medicaid covers lead testing outside of the EPSDT or wellness benefit for all beneficiaries. For details regarding Division of Medicaid lead testing coverage please visit [medicaid.ms.gov](http://medicaid.ms.gov).

### **Prevention Recommendations to Customer of the City of Jackson Water System**

**To protect those most vulnerable to lead exposure, the following additional recommendations are being made to customers of the City of Jackson water system by the Mississippi State Department of Health. These recommendations should be continued until the City of Jackson water system has resolved the corrosion issues:**

1. Any child  $\leq 5$  years of age or pregnant woman should use only filtered water (NSF 53 certified filter <http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU> ) or bottled water for drinking or cooking;
2. Baby formula should be “ready-to-feed” or prepared using only filtered water or bottled water;
3. All residents on the City of Jackson Water System should flush the faucet before using any tap water for drinking or cooking (for detailed guidance visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm> );
4. Households should never use hot water for drinking or cooking;
5. For parents with children < 6 years of age, please contact your child’s pediatrician or primary care provider to ensure that adequate lead screening and blood lead testing has been performed.

For additional information about lead and the best ways to prevent exposure, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/> .

Sincerely,

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist  
Mississippi State Department of Health

## *Alerting Message Specification Settings*

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	Mississippi State Department of Health
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	MSHAN-20160225-00115-ADV
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Health Advisory
<b>Status (Type):</b>	Actual ()
<b>Message Type:</b>	Alert
<b>Reference:</b>	MSHAN-00115
<b>Severity:</b>	Unknown
<b>Acknowledgement:</b>	No
<b>Sensitive:</b>	Not Sensitive
<b>Message Expiration:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Urgency:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Delivery Time:</b>	600 minutes

## *Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings*

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT ( <b>ALT=Health Alert</b> , <b>ADV=Health Advisory</b> , <b>UPD=Health Update</b> , <b>MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service</b> )).
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
<b>Health Alert:</b>	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
<b>Health Advisory:</b>	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
<b>Health Update:</b>	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Health Info Service:</b>	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Status (Type):</b>	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
<b>Message Type:</b>	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).